

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10
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DOD/ISA:DMAHLBERG
ERDA/ISA:RDUFF
S/S:FORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, CCD, SU
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SUBJECT: CCD: GUIDANCE FOR INFORMAL MEETING OF EXPERTS ON
NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), MARCH 14-18, 1977

REFS: (A) GENEVA 1114; (B) STATE 043282; (C) GENEVA 1477;
(D) STATE 048416

1. AS INDICATED REFS B AND D, US PLANS TO SEND EXPERT (BUCHHEIM) TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBJECT MEETING. AS INDICATED REF D, US EXPERT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES MORNING MARCH 14. HE SHOULD DRAW ON PARAS 2 THROUGH 4 OF REF B AS WELL AS ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN PARA 2 BELOW IN THESE CONSULTATIONS.

2. FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES--THE US POSITION AND ATTITUDE TOWARD MDW HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE LAST AUGUST, WHICH WAS:

(A) US WILLINGNESS TO SEND AN EXPERT TO CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OF SOVIET MDW PROPOSAL, BUT SIMPLY REFLECTS OUR PRACTICE OF LONG STANDING TO CONTRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES AT CCD.

(B) OUR OBJECTIVES AT SUBJECT MEETINGS WILL BE TO SEEK A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES IN POSSIBLE RESTRAINTS ON NEW MDW. THE USG HAS NOT TAKEN ANY POLICY DECISION ON FEASIBILITY OR DESIRABILITY OF PLACING FORMAL RESTRAINTS ON NEW MDW.

(C) WE BELIEVE EXPERTS SHOULD DISCUSS MAINLY MATTERS OF SCOPE AND DEFINITION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROBLEM. IN GENERAL, WE PREFER THAT THE EXPERTS NOT REPEAT NOT ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC WEAPON SYSTEMS--WHETHER CURRENTLY DEPLOYED, UNDER DEVELOPMENT, OR STRICTLY HYPOTHETICAL.

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3. FOR INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS--US EXPERT SHOULD TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE, ALTHOUGH NON-COMMITTAL, APPROACH TO INFORMAL MEETINGS. IN HIS STATEMENT AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM OTHER DELS, US EXPERT SHOULD DRAW ON POINTS A-G BELOW AND ON STATEMENT BY US REP ON AUGUST 17, 1976:

(A) WE RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS POSED BY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION--NEW OR EXISTING--AND WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD OVERCOMING SUCH DANGERS. HOWEVER, BEFORE REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OR DESIRABILITY OF PLACING FORMAL RESTRAINTS ON NEW MDW, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

(B) THE APPROACH TAKEN IN SOVIET DRAFT CONVENTION INTRODUCED AT 1975 UNGA IS TO ADVOCATE A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT PROHIBITING "NEW TYPES OF MDW" AND "NEW SYSTEMS OF MDW." HOWEVER, EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT EXAMINATION OF DIVERSE NEW TYPES OF MDW WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIALLY DIF-

FERENT APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF DEFINITION, SCOPE, AND VERIFICATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

(C) WE BELIEVE THAT INITIAL EFFORTS ON THE MDW QUESTION SHOULD LARGELY BE DIRECTED TO ACHIEVING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH CONCEPTS AS A NEW MDW, A NEW TYPE OF MDW, AND A NEW SYSTEM OF MDW. WE NOTE IN THIS REGARD, THAT PAST ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN APPLIED TO SPECIFIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND CATEGORIES.

(D) WHILE WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS FOR DEFINING THE TERM "WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION," WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT FEASIBILITY AND NECESSITY OF DEVELOPING A RIGOROUS DEFINITION THAT COULD SERVE AS A SOUND BASIS FOR FORMAL INTERNATIONAL RESTRAINTS. THERE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT RISK THAT ANY FORMAL DEFINITION OF MDW EITHER WOULD BE TOO GENERAL OR AMBIGUOUS TO BE APPLIED EFFECTIVELY TO IN-

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DIVIDUAL CASES OR WOULD BE SO SPECIFIC OR RIGID THAT UNFORESEEN SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS DESERVING TO BE COVERED

WOULD BE UNINTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED.

(E) SOME OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF "NEW MDW" ALREADY PRESENTED BY SOVIET EXPERTS SEEM RATHER CLEARLY TO FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS (E.G., BIOLOGICAL WARFARE CONVENTION). DISCUSSIONS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON "NEW MDW" SHOULD NOT INCLUDE TYPES OF WEAPONS ALREADY COVERED BY EXISTING AGREEMENTS OR NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHER, DISCUSSIONS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL CONCERNING "NEW SYSTEMS OF MDW" SHOULD NOT INCLUDE SYSTEMS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED OR PLANNED FOR DELIVERY OF EXISTING TYPES OF MDW.

(F) IN DISCUSSIONS OF NEW MDW IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS ON MDW. IF SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, US EXPERT SHOULD SEEK AGREEMENT OF SOVIET EXPERTS TO US POSITION THAT BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION COVERS USE OF RECOMBINANT DNA MOLECULES ("GENETIC ENGINEERING") FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES.

(G) WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE WITH THE SOVIET PROPOSAL (TRANSMITTED IN VORONTSOV TO HARTMAN, NON-PAPER OF FEBRUARY 10, 1977) THAT THIS SESSION OF CCD MOVE FROM GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO WORKING OUT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ATTEMPT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF QUESTIONS OF SCOPE AND DEFINITION.

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